

**Remarks by USAID Director, Ms. Elena Brineman
Opening of Conference on “Shared Responsibility in Sustainable Social
Development – Ten Years of Success”**

Good morning.

It’s my pleasure to be here sharing with this group of people from a highly engaged sector, committed to the development of the Dominican Republic. USAID would like to present to you our experiences working with and for the benefit of this country during the last ten years.

Through the NGO Co-Financing and the Reconstruction of Hurricane Georges programs, we’ve helped improving the living conditions of over 1.5 million people that represent around a twenty percent of Dominican population. Furthermore, we’ve stressed the development of the low-income population in rural areas and those affected by Hurricane Georges.

This conference is dedicated to the “Shared Responsibility in Sustainable Social Development – Ten Years of Success” and is indeed, recognition to the hard work and determination of the Dominican Government, international grantees, the private sector and NGOs that helped the communities in their self-development.

We must mention the NGO Co-Financing program, not only for its achieved success in the execution of several activities, but also for the capacity of alliance building between the sectors involved.

Those alliances served as platform for achieving success by the Reconstruction of Hurricane Georges projects. We hope you keep achieving success with future projects to help communities in the Dominican Republic.

I would like you to join us for a couple of days to share the achievements and lessons learned from the execution of these two projects. We will present some videos on the project’s mechanisms and work done on environment, agriculture, rural electrification, housing, potable water systems, sanitation, education and job creation for the micro enterprise sector.

We would also like to show you a few testimonials and the experiences of some beneficiaries explaining how those projects have improved their lives. With us, will be the NGOs that have been working with these communities for the past ten years, presenting their perspectives.

These NGOs have shown an exceptional efficiency and dedication, as well as transparency in their work. We are proud to contribute to the creation of a strong,

responsible, capable NGO sector that is willing to commit to the development of the Dominican Republic.

We are satisfied with all the alliances created in the last ten years. Those alliances represent the determination of the Dominican society to help the communities in participating on their development.

We are also pleased to see how the Dominican Government is receptive and has offered its cooperation and support to other sectors engaged in relieving poverty. This is very necessary to support initiatives and to set rules for developing those communities.

We believe in a private sector that is concerned for the welfare of their communities and we applaud the determination of those low-income Dominicans who contributed with their hard work. Also, those alliances have contributed to change the lifestyle of those communities in a positive manner in a short term by ensuring the availability of clean and potable water, electricity and housing.

Finally, allow me to congratulate all the participants in these two projects. Thanks to the Dominican Government for its support in this process. Thanks to the NGOs for their dedication and effort to help the needed. Thanks to those private sector companies that financially supported some projects. Thanks to ENTRENA and the Dominican Development Bank for their participation in these projects.

The Co-Financing and Reconstruction projects are proof of the important role of multi-sectorial alliances causing positive impact in this country's development and especially improving live.

Thank you very much and enjoy the following presentations.